Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Feasibility Study

- **Study Status:**
  Cong Add in FY 00
  (10 yr. Feasibility Study)

- **Study Cost:**
  Feas (Fed/NonFed)
  $35,000,000

- **FY04 Funding Required:**
  $3,000,000

Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-M
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: March 12, 2003

Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA) Ecosystem Restoration, LA (General Investigations): Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study

STUDY AUTHORITY: Senate Resolution 19 Apr 67 and House Resolution 19 Oct 67.

STUDY SPONSORS: The State of Louisiana.

STUDY LOCATION: The study area is Louisiana's coastal area from Mississippi to Texas. Louisiana parishes included in the study area include Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, and Vermilion. The entire Louisiana coast includes 9 hydrologically distinct basins, subdivided in 4 subprovinces.

STUDY PURPOSE: The purpose of the study is to identify and explore long-range, large-scale ecosystem restoration plans to restore and protect coastal Louisiana.

STUDY FEATURES: Study features include barrier island restoration, marsh creation, and river diversion.

STUDY COSTS: The LCA study is authorized to progress over a 10-year period at an estimated cost of $35 million ($17,500,000 Federal/$17,500,000 non-Federal).

STUDY SCHEDULE: The comprehensive study is scheduled for completion for inclusion in WRDA 2004. The feasibility study schedule is 10 years, with interim reports produced for authorization and construction.

STUDY BACKGROUND: As a result of the human activities and natural coastal processes, coastal Louisiana has lost over 900,000 acres since the 1930s. As recently as the 1970s, the loss rate for Louisiana's coastal wetlands was as high as 25,600 acres per year. The current rate of loss is about 16,000 acres per year, much of which is due to the residual effects of past human activity. Without action, it is estimated that coastal Louisiana will lose an additional 320,000 acres by the year 2050.

• The various components of the LCA feasibility study will develop alternative plans to restore and/or protect the natural and human environment to create a sustainable ecosystem within the context of the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem, including coastal Louisiana.

•Comprehensive Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Study: The basis for alternative development will be derived from the Coast 2050 ecosystem strategies and the additional ecosystem strategies of the revised list. The 1998 document presents 82 regional ecosystem strategies for the restoration of coastal Louisiana. There is the potential for multiple alternative methods of facilitating a strategy. However, the result would be an array of alternatives that would make management of the study impractical. Therefore, a phased approach to alternative analysis will be followed. Preliminary draft report scheduled for submission to MVD in June 2003.

ISSUES: None.